

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 7, 2007. Claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 16, 18 and 19 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, in the present Office Action, the Examiner indicated that an initialed Form PTO 1449 corresponding to an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on June 21, 2007 was included with the present Office Action. However, no such form was provided. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide the initialed Form PTO 1449 with the next Office Action or Notice.

In addition, the Examiner returned an initialed Form PTO 1449 corresponding to an IDS submitted on June 17, 2004 in which document EP 0 860 980 was listed. However, the Examiner failed to initial the EP 0 860 980 listing. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner update the initialed Form PTO 1449 and provide a copy thereof to the Applicant with the next Office Action or Notice.

Claims 2 to 6, 10 to 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,563,596 (Narushima). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 11.

Turning to specific claim language, amended new independent Claim 3 is directed to a printing apparatus for printing an image on the basis of image data from a plurality of image sources. The apparatus includes a first reception unit configured to receive a control command

from a first image data source of the plurality of image data sources, wherein the control command designates one or more second image sources that are permitted to supply image data to the printing apparatus out of the plurality of image data sources; a second reception unit configured to interpret the control command received by the first reception unit and to receive image data from the one or more second image data sources designated by the control command; a generation unit configured to generate print data based on the image data received by the second reception unit; and a print unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on the print data generated by the generation unit.

Therefore, a printing apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 receives a control command from a first image data source of the plurality of image data sources. The control command designates one or more second image sources that are permitted to supply image data to the printing apparatus, out of the plurality of image data sources. The printing apparatus then interprets the received control command and receives image data from the one or more second image data sources which are permitted to supply image data to the printing apparatus. The printing apparatus then generates print data based on the received image data and prints an image based on the print data.

In contrast, Narushima discloses a printer apparatus having a plurality of interfaces for connecting a plurality of image data sources 13. In the present Office Action it is contended that Narushima, at col. 2, lines 13 to 47, discloses interpreting a control command from a first image data source and determining a content designated by the control command. Applicant's respectfully disagree with such a contention. Applicants submit that, because the command is input by a user via a command device 1010 connected to a host computer 1001 (see Fig. 1), the command is not from a first image data source of the plurality of image data sources. Further,

Narushima does not disclose or suggest receiving image data from a second image data source designated by the control command received from a first image data source.

Therefore, Narushima does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the printing apparatus of Claim 3. In light of this deficiency of Narushima, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 3 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claim 11 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 5 and 13.

Claim 5 is directed to a printing apparatus for printing an image on the basis of image data from a plurality of image data sources. The printing apparatus comprises a plurality of interfaces, each configured to connect with each of the plurality of image data sources; a first reception unit configured to receive a control command from a first image data source of the plurality of image data sources, wherein the control command designates switching a first interface for connecting with the first image data source to a second interface for connecting with a second image data source; a switching unit configured to interpret the control command received by said first reception unit and to switch from the first interface to the second interface; a second reception unit configured to receive image data from the second image data sources via the second interface after said switching unit has switched to the second interface; a generation unit configured to generate print data based on the image data received by said second reception unit; and a print unit configured to print an image on a printing medium based on the print data generated by said generation unit.

Therefore, a printing apparatus in accordance with Claim 5 receives a control command from a first image data source of the plurality of image data sources. The control command designates switching a first interface for connecting with the first image data source to a second interface for connecting with a second image data source. Then the printing apparatus interprets the received control command and switches from the first interface to the second interface to connect with the second image data source. Then the printing apparatus receives image data from the second image data sources via the second interface after the interface is switched to the second interface. The printing apparatus then generates print data based on the received image data and prints an image based on the print data.

In contrast, Narushima does not disclose or suggest receiving a control command from a first image data source of a plurality of image data sources, wherein the control command designates switching a first interface for connecting with the first image data source to a second interface for connecting with a second image data source. Narushima further does not disclose or suggest interpreting the received control command and switching from a first interface to a second interface to receive image data from a second image data sources via the second interface.

Therefore, Narushima does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the printing apparatus of Claim 5. In light of this deficiency of Narushima, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 5 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 13 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Finally, the previous claim count totaled 18 (20 paid-for), with 5 independent claims. The present amendment deletes 2 independent claims and one dependent claim, and adds 4 independent claims, bringing the total claim count to 16, with 8 independent claims. Therefore, the fee difference between the previous claim count and the current claim count is for 3 independent claims. Accordingly, the Director is hereby authorized to charge \$630.00 for the additional claims or any deficiency therein, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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